

'Wait Until Dark' offers evening of literate thrills

By KEN RIPLEY

Don't wait to go see the famous thriller, "Wait Until Dark." The scary smash on Broadway and terrifying movie starring Audrey Hepburn is also a delightful night of chills at the Rocky Mount Playhouse Theatre.

Playing Thursday through Saturday nights in Rocky Mount, Frederick Knott's "Wait Until Dark" is the story of three con men who attempt to trick Susy Hendrix, an independent and intelligent blind woman, into giving them a child's doll — filled with drugs — that has come into her possession.

Taking place entirely in the Hendrix' basement apartment in Greenwich Village, the play builds slowly but steadily in two acts as Suzy begins to see through their scheme and plays a dangerous game with the help of a little girl, Gloria, to save her life.

The shocking climax, terrifying in the movie, is no less jolting on stage, even though it is staged somewhere between the total darkness and darkened-theater twilight of the audience's imagination.

Capably directed by Jerry Sipp, the Playhouse stage version begins with a realistic set designed by Art Sauer, throws in dramatic mixes of light and dark,

Review

adds the occasional special effects noise marred only by the even more occasional and usually unnecessary melodramatic music, and tops off the whole thing with excellent acting by the cast.

Wesleyan student Melinda Harden, coming off her role as a ditsy nun in Nunsense 2, is outstanding as Susy Hendrix, the innocent and trusting woman who gradually pieces together her horrifying predicament.

Harden is totally convincing as a blind woman, managing the stare that comes from seeing without sight and the body language of someone trapped inside her own internal mapping.

Playhouse veterans Duncan Baker and Steve Pavelsky as con men Mike Talman and Sgt. Carlino do a balancing act between sympathetic and menacing as they involuntarily team up with the coldly evil Kevin Ashley Corbett as Harry Roat in his Playhouse debut. Corbett, a Wesleyan student, holds his own with Harden in the play's climactic confrontation.

Playhouse newcomer Nina Borum, as hateful little Gloria,

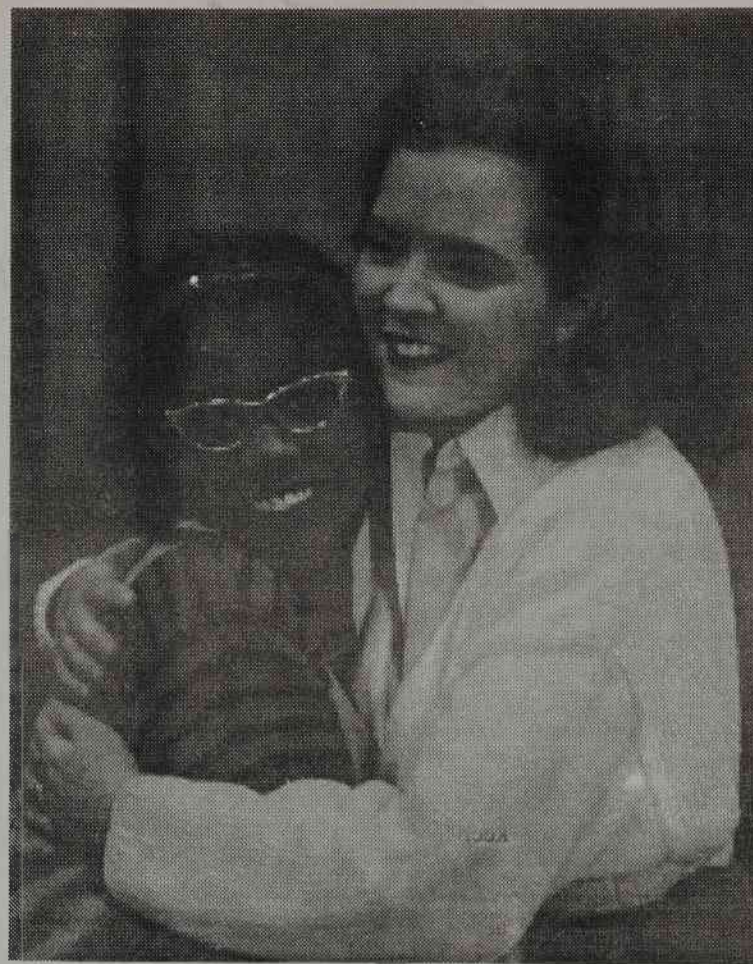
speaks her lines well and shows potential for future performances.

Playhouse newcomers rounding out the cast in supporting roles are Wesleyan student Clay Jackson as Sam Hendrix and Jeffrey Acree and Chris Manning as policemen.

Despite its violent premise, "Wait Until Dark" is a thriller, not a killer, building suspense without resorting to buckets of gore. It is literate and engaging, and the ending is simply dessert for a feast of verbal and visual entertainment.

Don't wait until dark to make your reservations at the Playhouse. "Wait Until Dark" is a great theatrical evening.

("Wait Until Dark" is being performed through Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Rocky Mount Playhouse. Tickets are \$8. For reservations, call 972-1266.)



WAIT UNTIL DARK — Wesleyan student Melinda Harden (right) with Nina Borum in scene from Rocky Mount Playhouse's "Wait Until Dark."

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Are you (please circle): Faculty Student Staff

Intramural-Recreational Sports Update



Indoor Volleyball

Registration Opens: Feb. 9

Registration Closes: Feb. 16

Organizational Meeting: Feb. 16, 7 p.m., SAC

Team registration forms are in the Student Union by the post office or in the IM-REC office in the SAC.

Indoor Volleyball Official Clinics

Feb. 13 and 15 — 7 p.m. in Room 240

The Student Services Center

Feb. 13-24

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|---|------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Monday, Feb. 13 | 10:30 a.m. | Taking Notes That Make Sense | Room 189 |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Test Taking Techniques | Room 189 |
| INTERIM GRADES DUE IN REGISTRAR'S OFFICE | | | |
| Wednesday, Feb. 15 | 4 p.m. | Resume and Cover Letter Writing | Room 276 |
| Wednesday, Feb. 22 | 4 p.m. | Resume and Cover Letter Writing | Room 276 |

Student Services Center Staff will be in South and Nash Residence Halls from 3-5 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays to answer your questions about academic advising, careers, majors, study skills, job search, and any of the services the Center offers. Stop by with your questions!

Don't wait until May! Get a head start on your job search. The seminars about Resume and Cover Letter Writing will show you how.

Free tutoring in more than 30 courses is available in Tutors' Crossing. For more information, come by the Student Services Center (190 Pearsall) or call 985-5131.

If you want to improve your academic skills, the Student Services Center offers free seminars on Test and Note-Taking. Check them out!